

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

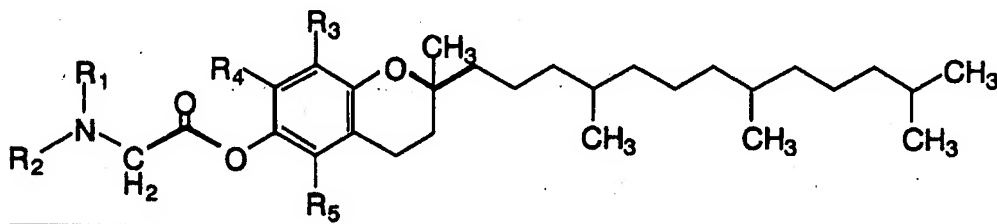
**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

#### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-14. (canceled).

15. (currently amended): A method for reducing or eliminating pigmentation of the skin, comprising a step of applying an effective amount of ~~the~~ a whitening cosmetic composition ~~according to any of claims 2, 3, and 7-14~~ to the skin;

wherein the whitening cosmetic composition comprises a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof, said ester being a compound represented by a formula (1) described below:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> independently represent a straight chain or branched alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbons or a hydrogen atom; and R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, and R<sub>5</sub> independently represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; with the proviso that R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> do not represent a hydrogen atom at the same time, and that R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, and R<sub>5</sub> do not represent methyl at the same time.

16. (previously presented): A method of using a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof, comprising applying a composition containing a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof for reducing or eliminating pigmentation of the skin.

17. (previously presented): A method of using a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof comprising preparing a pharmaceutical agent with a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof for use in reducing or eliminating pigmentation of the skin.

18. (new): The method according to Claim 15, wherein the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is at least one compound selected from a  $\gamma$ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester and a  $\delta$ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

19. (new): The method according to Claim 15, wherein the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is at least one compound selected from a  $\gamma$ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester and a  $\delta$ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

20. (new): The method according to Claim 19, characterized in that the  $\gamma$ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a d- $\gamma$ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

21. (new): The method according to Claim 15, characterized in that the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a  $\delta$ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

22. (new): The method according to Claim 21, characterized in that the  $\delta$ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a d- $\delta$ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

23. (new): The method according to Claim 15, characterized in that the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is tocopherol dimethylglycine ester.

24. (new): The method according to Claim 15, characterized in that the salt of a tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a salt of an organic acid or an inorganic acid.

25. (new): The method according to Claim 24, wherein the salt of a tocopherol alkylglycine ester is hydrochloride.

26. (new): The method according to Claim 15, wherein an added amount of the tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or the salt thereof ranges from 0.1 to 10% by mass.